

REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1 - 14 under 35 U.S.C. §112 first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner has questioned support found in the original specification for the language in claim 1, concerning the V-rich region and the I-rich region. Applicant has deleted these elements, and accordingly, this matter is considered obviated. Further, the Examiner has questioned support for the claims V/G range as the only range given in the specification is different from the one added to the claims. Applicant notes that the V/G range is within the limitations set forth in the specification. As applicant is entitled to claim less than that disclosed, applicant believes that the recitation of the V/G limitation is acceptable under 35 U.S.C. §112.

In addition to the above, the Examiner has stated there is no support for the combination of surface removal, predetermined oxide film and determining the nitrogen content as claimed. Applicant points to the specification on page 12, 13 and 14, and in particular, those paragraphs describing figure 2 where 3  $\mu$ m of the surface layer are disclosed as removed, the oxide film withstand-voltage ascertained and the nitrogen concentration determined. Applicant believes there is sufficient disclosure within the specification to support the language of the claims as they currently stand.

Since the Examiner has not repeated his rejection of the claims based on the art, applicant believes that these rejections have been withdrawn; with the above rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 having been obviated, applicant believes that the case is now in condition for allowance.

Applicant hereby requests reconsideration and reexamination thereof.

With the above amendments and remarks, this application is considered ready for allowance, and Applicants earnestly solicit an early notice of same. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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